



Columbus Public Schools
DISCOVERIES

Welcome Back 2023
Engaging all learners to achieve success



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Online at
columbuspublicschools.org



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TIME TO PIVOT

*A Call to Action
for Columbus
Public Schools*
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**2023-2024
CALENDAR
INSIDE**



2 From Your Superintendent

Time to Pivot: A Call to Action for CPS

It is time for Columbus Public Schools (CPS) to “PIVOT” again. However, this pivot will need to come from a grass roots dialogue with our community.

Last year, CPS went through their 5-year accreditation visitation.

While there are many great things happening in each and every classroom in each school, we can and need to continue to improve our Learning Goals for students, our instructional strategies, our relationships with parents and students, and finally define what it is we CPS value in terms of education for our students.

It is time to pivot and move forward to identify what we as a collective community want our schools to look like academically, technologically, and collaboratively.

We have always taken great pride in preparing our students for the next step in their education and beyond graduation.

Our last Strategic Plan focused on our curriculum, social-emotional needs, and facilities.

Now some of those goals may still apply in the new strategic plan, but things change and five to seven years ago is a long time when you think about changes in technology, standards, and needs within our community.

It is important that we have crucial conversations with our community, business leaders, parents, and students about Columbus Public Schools.

Some of those conversations may not be what we want to hear.



Dr. Troy Loeffelholz
Superintendent,
Columbus Public Schools

“We need your voices and ideas [...] to provide the best education for the students of Columbus, Nebraska; to move towards, and accept, the vision for change that has been defined by its peers. It is my honor and privilege to serve [...] Columbus Public Schools.”

But I don’t know anyone who has become successful without knowing their weaknesses and strategically taking steps to improve themselves.

That is what we have to do.

We will find out those things our community and parents like about us and we will hear things that we need to reflect on.

Our school district has to be a direct reflection of our community wants, values, and needs.

Once we know what we value as a

community and dig into the data for improvement, we will see just how much more successful we can be.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Superintendent of Columbus Public Schools.

Why? Because our community has been very supportive of our mission and values.

I do hope that if you are called upon to help us with our next strategic plan, you say yes.

We need your voices and ideas at the table to provide the best education for the students of Columbus, Nebraska; to move towards, and accept, the vision for change that has been defined by its peers.

Columbus Public Schools is the best place I’ve ever worked in my 34 years in education.

I feel we can be the best school district in the state.

Have a great year, be open minded to the pivots that are taking place and the outcomes we are willing to accept. Resistance to how we change in our practices is normal.

How can I support you in making this “pivot?”

Down To The Minute

Review the Board of Education’s recent meeting minutes online.

To access the minutes, use your smart device’s camera and scan the QR code.



Navigating CPS’ future with community’s voice

Does it seem to anyone else that time goes quickly when we want it to go slowly?

Of course, the opposite is true if we are in a hurry for something. I suspect one of these applies to you as the new school year draws near.

“New” certainly is appropriate concerning the start of the 2023-24 school year.

For some students it’s the beginning of their education; others are looking forward to their graduation next spring. All of the students in between will experience new teachers, rooms, friends, curriculum, and perhaps, a new building.

Similarly, staff get a whole new group of students, and for some, different teaching assignments.

It is also exciting that our preschool personnel will be bringing the sound of

students back to the Kramer Center.

This next year will be important as a board of education to access and tap into the thoughts and ideas of our community, business leaders, staff, parents, and students to set a strategic direction for Columbus Public Schools.



We are coming off our last five year strategic plan that extended for seven years.

It is time to ask the question, “What does Columbus Public Schools

need to look like in the next five to ten years?”

We will need all of your help to set this strategic direction. The board of education should be a direct reflection of our community thoughts and values.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome everyone back.

Let’s make this coming year a great experience for everyone by being the best we can be!

About This Letter

DISCOVERIES is published three times a year (one printed and two digital) by the Columbus Public Schools, P.O. Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947.

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz is the Superintendent of Schools and Nicole Anderson is the CPS Foundation and Marketing Director.

The Columbus Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, marital status, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

The Columbus Public School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

If you have any special needs requests that will assist you in participating in services, programs and activities of the Columbus Public School District, please contact your building principal or the Superintendent of Schools. **Board of Education:** President Doug Willoughby; Vice President Mike Jeffryes; Candy Becher, Mark Brown, Doug Molczyk and Theresa Seipel.

Need To Know

Free and Reduced Status

Students of Columbus who are not on the free or reduced status will be required to pay full price for breakfast and lunch qualifying meals.

What this means for families at Columbus Public Schools is that students who are not on free or reduced status will be required to pay full price for breakfast and lunch qualifying meals.

We encourage every family to take the time and apply for free/reduced status by following the directions listed on page 5 of this Discoveries.

It takes less than 15 minutes to complete and is all online.

All students, regardless of status, are required to pay for ala carte items or additional servings beyond that of the regular qualifying meal.

In order to do this, a student must have a positive balance in their EduTrak account.

The Districts unpaid meal policy also appears on page 5 and should be reviewed.

	Reduced Breakfast	Paid Breakfast	Reduced Lunch	Paid Lunch
Elementary	\$0.30	\$2.15 (+.05)	\$0.40	\$3.00 (+.10)
Middle/High School	\$0.30	\$2.15 (+.05)	\$0.40	\$3.20 (+.05)
Adult	N/A	\$2.65 (+.05)	N/A	\$4.10 (+.10)

Funds may be deposited at any building and are placed in a family account, there is no longer a need to send money for each child, to each building.

There is an option to pay online through EduTrak, which does include a processing fee.

Built to Win



Columbus High School students Fisher Cyza and Blake Ramaekers took first place in Mechatronics at the National Skills USA competition this summer.

2023 - 2024 SCHEDULES

3

High School

Incoming 9th Grade & New Student Open House

August 10

- 6:30 - 8 p.m.

9th Grade Orientation

August 17

- 8 - 11:45 a.m.

10th-12th Student Orientation

August 16

- Senior: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Sophomore: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Junior: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

First Day of School

August 18

- All students, full day beginning at 8:10 a.m.

Middle School

5th-8th Grade Open House

August 15

- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Start at your child's advisory class for a presentation

First Day of School

August 16

- 6th - 8th Grade: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

August 17

- 5th Grade: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- No breakfast served Aug. 16 and 17.
- Lunch served both days

Elementary Schools

Open House

August 15 ■ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Kindergarten First Day Of School

August 16 (A-K)

- 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

August 17 (L-Z)

- 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

- Lunch will be served for kindergarten only.

First Day of School

August 17

- First - Fourth: 8 a.m. - Noon

August 18

- First - Fourth: 8 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Parent Meeting (Only Kindergarten)

August 18

- No student or siblings allowed.
- 8:15 a.m. OR 5:30 p.m.
- One parent or guardian must attend

Important Phone Numbers

Board of Education

President Doug Willoughby, 656 S. Quail Lane, 402-564-0217

Vice President Mike Jeffryes, 3255 37th Ave., 402-276-3597

- Candy Becher, 120 SE Calle Colombo, 402-563-2767
- Mark Brown, 4028 5th Ave, 402-276-7442
- Doug Molczyk, 2870 N Park Lane, 402-276-4033
- Theresa Seipel, 4302 31st St., 402-562-8193

Secretary & Treasurer Dr. Chip Kay, 977 S River Birch Lane, 308-289-0905 (cell) or 402-563-7000 (work)

Administration Building

2508 27th Street - 402-563-7000
Superintendent

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Teresa Hausmann
Director of Finance & Human Resources Dr. Chip Kay

Director of Technology & Operations Leonard Kwapnioski
Marketing & Foundation Director Nicole Anderson

Student Registrar Santiago Vasquez Ext. 10117

Student Services/ Special Education

CPS Administration Building -
2508 27th Street

Director of Student Services Jason Harris

Student Services Facilitator Sara Colford

Student Services Secretary Kristen Gausman

402-563-7000 Ext. 13993

Special Education Secretary Claudia Feehan

402-563-7000 Ext. 12123

Special Education Transportation - 402-563-7015

English Learners (EL)

Administration Building -
2508 27th Street
402-563-7000

EL District Coordinator Michelle Oppliger - ext. 13600

EL Office Assistant/Parent

Liaison Maria Lopez

Interpreter/Parent Liaison

Raul Gascón

Translator/Parent Liaison

Sophia Bahel Bele

Rosa Ramirez

High School

3434 Discoverer Dr.
402-563-7050

Principal Dave Hiebner
Activities Director Tim Kwapnioski

Assistant Principal

Molly Hornbeck

Assistant Principal Angela Leifeld

Assistant Principal

Michael Ziola

Middle School

2200 26th Street - 402-563-7060

Principal Amy Haynes

Assistant Principal & Activities

Director Jordon Anderson

Assistant Principal

Adriana Carnes

Assistant Principal Katie Rose

Centennial Elementary

500 Centennial St.- 402-563-8180

Principal Andrew Luebbe

Secretary Bridget Runquist

Emerson Elementary

2410 20th Street - 402-563-7030

Principal Angie Luebbe

Secretary Barbie Cheloha

Lost Creek Elementary

3772 33 Avenue - 402-563-7045

Principal John P. (J.P.) Holys

Secretary Kandy Bos

North Park Elementary

2200 31 Street - 402-563-7070

Principal Robert (Bob) Hausmann

Secretary Kourtney Rawls

West Park Elementary

4100 Adamy St. - 402-563-7075

Principal Paula Lawrence

Secretary Kathy Pospisil

Kramer Preschool

2410 16th St Suite C

Principal Ashlie Stone

Secretary TBA

Maintenance Shop

2458 48th Avenue - 402-563-7010

Director of Buildings and Grounds

Mike Grutsch

HAVC Coordinator John Harger Jr.

Maintenance/Grounds

Supervisor Brent Lawrence

Facilities Associate Mike Moje

Maintenance/Grounds Associate

Steve Steiner, James Killham

Electrician Dennis McMeekin

Maintenance/Supply Coordinator

Tom Laska

Need To Know

New Student Registration

Registrations for new students are now virtual!

To request the digital form, please contact Santiago Vasquez at 402-563-7000 Ext. 10117 or vasquezs@discoverers.org.

Parents/Guardians can also schedule an appointment to fill out the forms using the kiosk at the Columbus Public Schools Administration Building, 2508 27th St. Appointments are typically scheduled from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Please allow approximately 30 minutes to complete the process.

Please provide the following items for the registration:

- Immunization Records
- Certified birth certificate (No copies)

Proof of Residency, which include one of the following:

- Mortgage Statement
- Lease Agreement
- Personal Property Tax Statement
- Bank Statement - Within The Last 30 Days
- Employment Pay Stub - Within The Last 30 Days
- Gas Bill - Within The Last 30 Days
- Electric Bill - Within The Last 30 Days

State law requires that prior to the entrance of a student into the beginning grade, or in the case of a transfer from an out-of-state school to any grade, a physical and vision exam must be completed.

As a substitute for such evidence of a physical or vision exam, an objection in writing (signed and dated), should be presented to the registrar.

Physical and eye exam forms need to be returned to the registrar at the Administration Building prior to the first day of school.

All immunizations will need to be complete and proof given before a student will be allowed to enter school.

Physical & Vision Requirements

Nebraska Statutes require:

Physical Examination: Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse within 6 months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade.

No such examination shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.

Visual Examination: Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within 6 months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade.

Contact the school nurse for information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations for families who qualify.

No such evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.

Free And Reduced Application

There will be an option available to apply for free or reduced meals online for the 2023-2024 school year using our lunch program. This option will be available starting July 5, 2023.

To access the free/ reduced app, you must first activate your *Edutrak Software* (formerly known as Wordware) family account.

You should receive an email with a link from *Edutrak Software* (Wordware) with activation information and a key code after registering your student. **Please use the link sent to you as this will be associated with CPS – Do NOT create a new account.**

If you need assistance with activation, please contact Julie Reiff at 402-563-7000 ext 12270.

Once your Edutrak account is activated, you are encouraged to complete an online application.

1. Log in to your Edutrak (Wordware) account by going to lobby.wordwareinc.com. Enter your username and password.
2. Click on the orange “GO” button by the knife/fork icon.
3. Click on the blue “Apply for free/ reduced benefits” button.
4. Click on the blue “Get started” button.
5. Fill out your information, and submit your form.

The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as a paper application. Computers and assistance are available at the CPS Administration office, call 402-563-7000 to set up an appointment.

If your child(ren) qualified for free or reduced – priced meals at the end of the last school year, you must submit a new application before the start of the 2023-2024 school year in order to avoid an interruption in meal benefits.

Please note: If you received a letter from the school saying that your child(ren) were automatically approved (directly certified) for free meals for the 2023 – 2024 school year because someone in your household participates in SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF then you do not need to submit an application.

Contact Paula Brandenburgh at the CMS cafeteria at 402-563-7060 if you have any questions about the free or reduced meals program.

Unpaid Meal Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish limitations on the number of breakfasts or lunches a student may receive when the account balance is not sufficient to cover those costs, to provide for alternate meals to be served to students when account balances reach certain limits, and to protect the District from such unpaid financial obligations.

Families are encouraged to keep account balances in the positive at all times.

Deposits are accepted at each school building and at the Administration Building. Deposits may be made by cash, check, or online through your family Wordware account.

Account balances and purchase details by student may be obtained through the family access portal in Wordware. If online access to Wordware is not available, the District office may be contacted at (402) 563-7000.

Each day that a student eligible for reduced price or paid meals brings the

actual amount of the cost of the meal, that student will be provided a breakfast and/ or lunch and the amount received will be applied to the cost of that meal rather than to reduce a prior negative balance.

In the event that a student’s account balance reaches -\$15.00, the student will be offered an alternate meal meeting reimbursable requirements of the USDA school nutrition program.

The District will also provide the necessary forms for the student’s parent or guardian to apply for free or reduced price meals. Such benefits may be applied for at any time during the school year.

At the High School and Middle School a la carte purchases will not be permitted if a student’s account balance is below \$0.

To the extent possible, all actions pertaining to students with negative account balances will be handled as confidentially as possible. Communications regarding account balance concerns will be provided by text, phone, and e-mail through

the family Wordware account. Communication in writing by assigned District personnel will only be done at the end of each semester. It is the parent’s (or guardian’s) responsibility to create a Wordware account and maintain a positive family balance in their account.

Students will not be used as couriers of such information.

This policy shall be provided in writing on an annual basis to students and parents through the District website and also in the annual back to school mailing and in school handbooks.

The policy shall also be provided in writing to households transferring into the District during the school year. It shall also be provided to school administrators and others charged with enforcement of this policy.

This policy shall be reviewed and adopted on an annual basis. Policy adopted, Jan. 18, 2021.



Michael Bader

CMS SPED



Matthew Bates

Emerson 4th Grade



Sarah Bird

Centennial K-4 Dean
of Students



Katie Brezina

Centennial Kindergarten



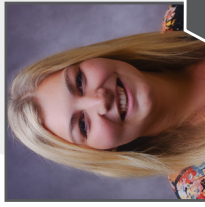
Jacob Brown

CMS 8th Social Studies



Eileen Burkhardt

Centennial 3rd Grade



Kelsie Davidson

Lost Creek 4th Grade



Corissa DeArmond

Centennial Kindergarten



Mayrose Jamarabon Galapon

CMS 8th Math



Richard Godejohn

CMS 8th Math



Sabrina Hamling

CMS 6th Science



Jayson Klaumann

CHS Math



John Klemmensen

CHS Math



Dylan Kucera

Emerson Health & Fitness



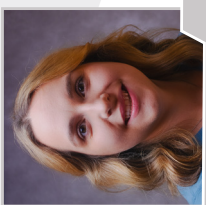
Dylan Loewe

CHS Business



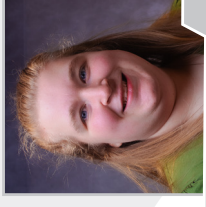
Lisa Lubken

CMS SPED



Jena Lynn

Lost Creek 3rd Grade



Haley McDonald

Centennial 1st Grade



Avery McKennan

CHS Science



Kaitlynn Meyer

CHS English



Renee Miller

Kramer Preschool



Laura Mohr

Emerson Kindergarten



Katie Nedela

CMS Health & Fitness



Marissa Nickolite

CMS Health & Fitness

Say Hello To

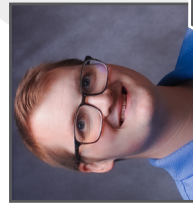
OUR NEWEST DISCOVERERS

Columbus Public Schools 2023-24

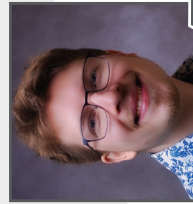
**Columbus High Alumni

CPS adds 21 first-year teachers, hires 47 to fill openings

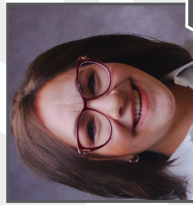
Columbus Public Schools are excited to introduce the new teachers joining its staff for the 2023-2024 school year. The district has signed 47 teachers to its staff. Of those, 21 are new will begin their careers with CPS. "This is a great group of young and excited teachers," Superintendent Dr. Troy Loeffelholz said. "We are looking forward to starting this year off well and are happy to have them abroad."



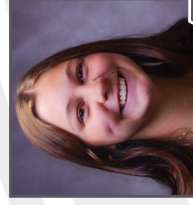
Seth Ostrander
CMS 8th Math



Dane Pedersen
CHS Science



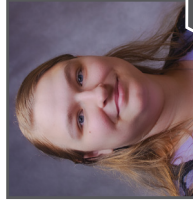
Katie Rose
CMS Ast. Principal



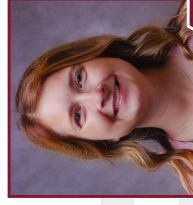
Emilee Rotherham
CMS 5th Reading



Kelli Schoch
CHS Science



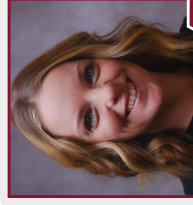
Sara Schwartz
CMS 7th Math



Erin Settles
Kramer Preschool



Nathan Sliva
CHS Career Education



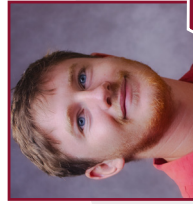
Ashlie Stone
Preschool Principal



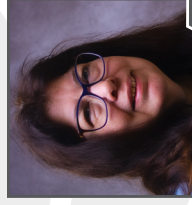
Giselle Ty Ruda
CMS 8th Language Arts



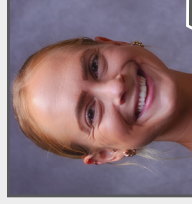
Kyle Trosien
CHS Social Studies



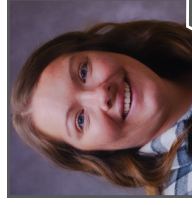
Levi Vanden Bos
CHS Math



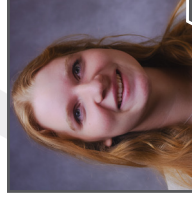
Heather Walla
CPS SLP



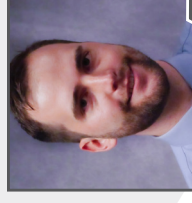
Heidi Wallin
CMS 8th Science



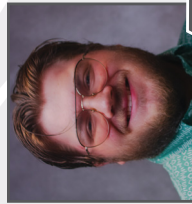
Lauryn Weldon
Centennial SPED



Jessie Wemhoff
CHS English



Drew Whisenant
Kramer Early Childhood SPED



Wyatt Winchell
CHS Social Studies

Summer school a successful 'Jump Start' 8

Students focus on next-grade skills during July program

Summer school has just wrapped up at Emerson Elementary, and students across CPS got a great start for the new school year. Paula Lawrence, West Park principal, said summer school is like a "jump start," preparing students for the challenges of the next school year.

"At the elementary level, our main focus is reading and math. Students review skills and are introduced to some of their new grade level skills," she explained. This focus helps make summer learning engaging and purposeful.

This year, 150 students, ranging from kindergarten to third grade, committed their summer days to learning from July 5-21.

Summer school, Lawrence noted, is different from regular school. In the summer, the focus is on enhancing reading and math skills. That doesn't mean it's all work, though.

The program was filled with various enrichment activities that added a fun element to learning.

Special guests from the Columbus Police Department, Columbus Fire Department, the Columbus Hospital, Centro Hispano, and others visited students, providing engaging experiences and activities.

Despite the differences, some things are similar to the regular school year. One such is the recognition and celebration of hard work. "At summer school, we celebrate all the learning and hard work our kids have done during school with popsicles and a performance by the CHS Drumline," Lawrence shared, revealing a festive side of the program.

Lawrence extended a big thank you to all the teachers in the district who played an integral role in promoting summer school and facilitating sign-ups. Their efforts resulted in a "great turn-out."

In addition, she applauded the crew members of the Transportation Department. "They did an amazing job," Lawrence said, "and always welcomed our students with a smile." Their commitment contributed to the program running smoothly.

Lastly, Principal Lawrence expressed gratitude for her summer school staff. "They are very dedicated to our students. Summer school could not happen without them," she emphasized, acknowledging the importance of their hard work in the success of the program.



Students in summer school login into their iPads for math and reading activities. This year, 150 students, ranging from kindergarten to third grade attended the July program.

10,500+ Served
CPS's summer lunch program served more than 10,000 meals to children across Columbus. That's an average of **230 a day** over the nine weeks of service!



Students get a tour of the new Columbus Public Library during their summer school session this July.



A group of summer school students view the inside of a Columbus Fire Department truck parked outside Emerson Elementary.



A student in summer school at Emerson Elementary focuses on a math problem during class.



Download our app!

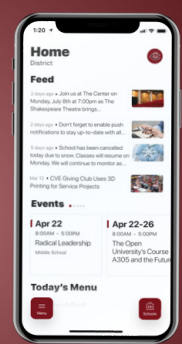
It's everything Discoverers, **in your pocket.**

¡Dale un vistazo a nuestra aplicación!

Está todo Discoverers, **en tu bolsillo.**

Découvrez notre app!

Toutes les informations scolaires de **Discoverers.**





Direct Mail

One way communication used by CPS District and School Buildings to families.



Thrillshare

One way communication used by the CPS District and School Buildings to families for text messaging and automated calls. Every parent/guardian is automatically included. If you change a phone number, address or email be sure to contact your school as well as update your profile in ParentVue.



EduTrack (Wordware)

One way communication used by school building food service staff to communicate outstanding account balances. This may be text messages, automated calls or email.



ParentVue

NEW parent portal that replaces PowerSchool. You will have access to grades, attendance and other data about your child or children. You will be able to see records for all of your children with this single log in. Log in directions will be mailed to your home.



Remind

Two way communication that allows for texting and phone calls. Used by teacher and activity sponsors without exchanging phone numbers. Provides safety for you, your student and staff as all text messages are archived. You MUST OPT-IN. You do not need a smartphone; you can sign up with an email address as well. An activation code is needed. Teachers will provide this code to you using either Google Classroom or SeeSaw. Prior to your teacher contacting you please download the REMIND app. On Apple and Android devices, go to your app store and search Remind: School Communication.



Google Classroom

Used by high school and middle school students. Each teacher sets up a virtual classroom for each class section. This is optional for parents/guardians. This is where students see assignments, due dates, and general class information. You can receive regular summaries from Google about your student's work. To join, email your student's teachers and ask to be invited to Classroom. This will add you to all of their classes. Be sure to include your student's name and student id number.



Seesaw

Used by elementary students and parents/guardians. Each teacher will set up a class within this platform and communicate to you how to access your student's information. This is optional for parents/guardians. This is where you and your child will receive and complete assignments.



Email

All staff members may be contacted by email. Email addresses can be found online at each school's website.



Smore

One way communication tool used by the district and principals to send newsletters or alerts via email.

COLUMBUSPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG



Safe2HelpNE available to CPS staff, students

Safe2HelpNE is a report system designed for students, staff, and parents to anonymously report concerning behavior which could impact the safety of students or schools across Nebraska.

Students, staff, and parents can report concerning behavior which may impact the safety of students or schools including, but not limited to:

- School threats
- Bullying
- Suicide concern
- Crime
- Domestic violence
- Abuse
- A friend's physical or mental health



Scan the QR code to learn more about Safe2Help

www.education.ne.gov/safety/safe2help-faq/

Need To Know

Routine Directory

According to Columbus Public Schools Policy 507.02, the school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Student's name and grade
- Parent/legal guardian name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work, which may be published on district electronic feeds

Upon request, the district will provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent.

The district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide notice and to determine the method of notice that will inform parents.

In an effort to better inform parents and the community, Columbus Public Schools will be using social media to share information. Social media includes but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogging and podcasting.

When posting information on Social Networks sites (such as Facebook), in most situations, pictures will only include the student's first name. However, first and last names may be listed for building or district-level awards, any extra curricular activity as well as students who participated outside of the school day at activities open to the general public. Students will not be allowed to post on any Social Media pages from the district. Social Media will be monitored by each building principal or his or her designee.

Parents of students, or eligible students, who do not wish to have this information made available, upon request, by the Columbus Public Schools must indicate in writing to the appropriate building principal or high school students to the school counseling and career office by September 1.



Join us on August 18, 2023 for the **7TH ANNUAL DISCOVERER DASH** around Pawnee Park Memorial Stadium!

Registration/Check-in begins at 5pm.

Race to begin promptly at 5:30pm.

Cost per runner is \$15*

*INCLUDES THE RUNNER'S ENTRANCE TICKET INTO THAT NIGHT'S FOOTBALL GAME!

There will be four waves of runners, based on age:

Future Discoverers (ages 3-5)

Parents may run with their children in this division only.

Discoverers in Training (ages 6-8)

Discoverer Prospects (ages 9-11)

Discoverers (ages 12-14)

Online Registration
Now Open

www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/discover-dash.html



Need To Know

Immunization Requirements

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have immunization requirements for children entering school. In Nebraska, children will not be allowed to attend classes in public or private school until the school has written proof of their immunization status.

To attend school, children in Nebraska are required by law to be immunized against the following diseases:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis
- Polio
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

Each school in Nebraska is required to keep the immunization history of the students enrolled on file. Parents or guardians must present one of the following documents to the school to verify immunization status:

- An immunization record showing that the child is protected by age-appropriate immunizations.
- A statement signed by a physician that the required immunization would be injurious to the student or members of the student's family or household.
- An affidavit signed by a legally authorized representative stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized religious denomination of which the

student is a member.

The following are the state of Nebraska immunization requirements for the 2023-24 school year.

All students grades K through 12 must have:

- three (3) doses of DTaP, DTP, Td, or DT vaccine (one dose given on or after the fourth birthday)
- three (3) doses of Polio vaccine
- two (2) doses of MMR vaccine (given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month)
- three (3) doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine (or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age)
- two (2) doses of Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine (given on or after 12 months of age)
- If the child has had Chickenpox (Varicella disease), they do not need Varicella vaccinations. Written documentation (including year) of Varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.

7th Grade Only – 1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster) – This dose can be received any time after 10 or 11 years of age, depending on which brand of vaccine is used.

Anyone with questions can contact their health care provider or their school nurse.

2023-2024 Calendar

Columbus Public Schools 2023-2024 *Discoverers* Calendar

August 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August
 4,7-8 New Teacher Professional Development
 Teacher PD/Workday/Staff Meeting, Collaboration
 9-15 1st Day Kindergarten (Half of Students) 3:25 dismissal
 16 1st Day Kindergarten (Half of Students) 3:25 dismissal
 17 1st Day 1st-5th & 9th Grades ONLY, Ele 12:00 Dismissal
 18 1st Day Kindergarten (Half of Students) 3:25 dismissal
 18 Grades 1-12 Full Day, No kindergarten

September 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September
 4 Labor Day - No School
 22 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal - P/T Prep
 25, 28 Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 26, 28 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
 27, 28 High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 28 Teacher PD AM, Conferences PM
 28-29 No School for Students

October 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October
 19 1st Quarter Ends
 Grades K-8 - 12:00 PM Dismissal/Report Card Prep
 Grades 9-12 - Full Day
 Teacher Work Day/RC - No School for Students
 Grades Completed and due by 4:00pm
 2nd Quarter Begins
 23 Thanksgiving Break - No School

November 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November
 22-24 Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December
 8 PK-12 - District PD (Select-A-Session)/Collaboration
 21 2nd Quarter Ends
 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal
 Teacher Work Day (Report Cards) - No School for Students
 Grades due by 4:00pm
 25-29 Christmas Break - No School

January 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January
 1 No School
 2 Teacher Workday-No School for Students
 3 Staff PD-No School for Students
 4 3rd Quarter Begins
 19 PK-12 - District PD(Strategic Plan)/Collaboration

February 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February
 9 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal
 Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 12, 15 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
 13, 15 High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 14, 15 Teacher PD AM, Conferences PM
 15 No School for Students
 15-16

March 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March
 7 3rd Quarter Ends
 Grades K-8 - 12:00 PM Dismissal/Report Card Prep
 Grades 9-12 - Full Day
 Teacher Work Day/RC - No School for Students
 Grades due by 4:00pm
 No School - Spring Break
 11-15 4th Quarter Begins
 18

April 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April
 29, 1 Easter Break
 Teacher Work Day/Collaboration - No School for Students
 19 Grades 9-12 - Noon Dismissal
 30 Grades K-8 - Full Day

May 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May
 3 Teacher PD/Workday
 15 Final Senior Attendance Day
 17 4th Quarter Ends (42)
 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal
 19 Graduation
 20 Teacher Work Day (Report Cards) - No School for Students
 Grades due by 4:00pm

Key:

- Early Dismissal
- Elem 2:15 HS 2:35 MS 2:35
- Professional Development or Workday/No School for Students
- Beginning/End of Quarter
- No School for Teachers and Students
- K-12 early dismissal
- Graduation

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 Columbus Public Schools
 Phone: 402-563-7000

High School Hours - 8:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.
 Wednesday Early Dismissal - 2:35 p.m.

Middle School Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Wednesday Early Dismissal - 2:35 p.m.

Elementary School Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
 Wednesday Early Dismissal - 2:15 p.m.

Calendar Facts

- There are 168 student contact days in the calendar.
- The last day of school is scheduled for May 19th.
- *The district may start at 10:00 a.m. due to inclement weather.
- *Students may have to make up days of attendance if the district accumulates 4 or more days due to weather.



DISCOVERIES

Columbus Public Schools
2508 27th Street
P.O. Box 947
Columbus, NE 68602-0947

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Columbus, Nebraska
Permit No. 72

Back To School 2023

DISCOVERIES

Engaging all learners to achieve success



Columbus Public Schools

- BACK-TO-SCHOOL NEED TO KNOWS

-  2023-2024 SCHEDULES AND CALENDAR

- A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Important
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Inside

Say Hello To

**OUR NEWEST
DISCOVERERS**

Columbus Public Schools 2023-24



**SUMMER SCHOOL A
SUCCESSFUL 'JUMP START'**
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